

MINUTES

Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities

Regular Meeting - Tuesday September 28, 2010
2:30 PM - Conference Room B - Audrey P. Beck Building

- I. Recording Attendance
Present: K. Grunwald (staff), Denise Houman, C. Semenza-Colon, W. Gibbs (Chair), KA Easley (staff), J. Blanshard
Regrets: F. Goetz, J. Sidney, J. Tanner
- II. Approval of Minutes: the Minutes for the June 22, 2010 meeting were accepted as written.
- III. New Business
 - a. Welcome new member: Denise Houman introduced herself and members introduced themselves.
 - b. Goals for FY 10/11: K. Grunwald distributed copies of goals for this past year. D. Houman would like to see Storrs Center to be more wheelchair accessible. Suggestion that Cynthia Van Zelm be invited to this meeting to provide an update. (add to the first/existing goal). C. Colon-Semenza suggested moving the parking violation issue to the area of accomplishments. K. Grunwald will draft goals and accomplishments and email to the group. Discussion re: whether the issue of post office accessibility should be included; focus more on accessibility to other buildings.
 - c. Proposed Brochure: K. Grunwald distributed copies of a draft brochure for the committee. Some discussion about the use of the wheelchair symbol on the front cover. Suggestion to use images of people, possibly an open door. Look at using the term "membership" as opposed to "composition." Preference for Membership: "members are appointed by the Town Council... Add the website link; K. Grunwald will attempt to edit by bulleting areas; add examples of people first language on the back of the brochure. Will edit and review at next meeting.
 - d. Election issues at Mansfield Community Center: Carol Pellegrine has raised concerns about using the Community Center as a voting location. The size of the facility requires voters to walk long distances, and the covering used to protect the floor makes it difficult for individuals who use walkers or wheelchairs to navigate. Discussion about problems associated with this site. Question asked about whether or not voters can

vote in a different location? One option is for voters to vote by absentee ballot. Questions about what the process is to vote in this way. Can accommodations be made for voters with disabilities? K. Grunwald will check with Mary Stanton and Curt Vincente regarding options.

- e. "Other": none.

IV. Old Business

- a. "Good Citizen" Recognition: We will send a "good citizen recognition" to TJ Maxx. K. Grunwald will contact Mike Savino at the Chronicle to see if we can get an article printed on this.
- b. Network for parents of children with disabilities: Will discuss this with Rachel Leclerc at our next meeting. D. Houman indicates that there are not many resources like this available in the community. C. Colon-Semenza raised the question of what the role of the committee would be in this: advocacy.
- c. Publicity efforts/Community Presentation: C. Colon-Semenza is questioning the direction of this presentation. KA Easley feels that the venue will help to determine the focus of the presentation. Discussion about using the Senior Center, possibly PTO's at the schools. What topic would have the most interest or appeal; draw the largest number of attendees? Feeling that we need to settle on one area of disabilities to focus on. Check with with Deb Hultgren, Cindy Dainton, or Rachel Leclerc regarding suggestions. Cristina will contact Cindy Dainton at the Senior Center and then create an outline for a presentation; discuss at the October meeting.
- d. Status of other accessibility issues previously identified: no discussion.

V. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:39 PM.

The next meeting will be October 26 (Rachel Leclerc has been invited to attend).

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald